

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's second news conference began at 2:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Judge William Webster, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is leading the investigation of Special Agent Robert Hanssen; President Vladimir Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov of Russia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

### Statement on the Death of Dale Earnhardt

February 22, 2001

I have asked my close friend Joe Allbaugh to attend today's memorial service for Dale Earnhardt. I am saddened by the untimely loss of this American legend and want to express my deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and fans. Dale was an American icon who made great contributions to his sport. Dale's legacy will live on for millions of Americans. He was an inspiration to many.

### Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Budget Review Board and an Exchange With Reporters

February 23, 2001

**The President.** Good morning. Welcome to the Budget Review Board. We've been going over the budget that I'll be submitting to the Congress next Tuesday night. I want to thank OMB Director Mitch Daniels for doing a really fine job.

It is a budget that clearly sets out priorities. It is a budget that sets aside Social Security money for only—to be used only for Social Security. It is a budget that will substantially pay down debt, and it's a budget that provides meaningful, real tax relief for our citizens.

In the budget, I prioritize education. I talked about that yesterday. We also prioritize the health care needs. We recog-

nize the Federal Government plays a very important role in researching cures for disease, and therefore, our budget increases the NIH budget for 2002 by \$2.8 billion, the largest increase in that Department's history.

And so I'm very much looking forward for the American people to see and hear the budget presentation. It's a practical budget. It makes a lot of sense. It meets a lot of needs. And the people of this country are going to realize we spent a lot of time on it and will realize that they've got an administration that is practical, full of common sense, and always asks the question, how can we help the people of the country?

Thanks.

### National Economy

**Q.** Is the uptick in inflation going to make it harder to get the economy going again?

**The President.** Not with the Secretary of the Treasury at the helm.

Thanks a lot.

### Opening Day Plans

**Q.** Are you going to Puerto Rico to see the Rangers?

**The President.** Are you?

**Q.** I'd like to.

**The President.** I'm not putting out my opening day plans yet.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### February 17

The President and Mrs. Bush attended a hometown celebration welcoming them on their first home visit to Crawford, TX.